



SEAPORT

NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO: CLEARWATER, IDAHO, LATAH, LEWIS, & NEZ PERCE COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

As shown in Seaport Table 1, the Seaport's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased in June 2001 to 4.0 percent from May's rate of 4.3 percent. In June 2000, the rate was 4.6 percent. Total Employment in June increased slightly (70) with increases in *Food Processing* and *Services* industries. However, year-over-year, total employment decreased by 260 workers. Because month-to-month employment and unemployment numbers are seasonally adjusted, a loss of 260 jobs is significant and bears watching. In comparison to June 2000, unemployment in June 2001 decreased by 220. It is generally assumed that when employment decreases, unemployment increases proportionally; this was not the case. Before analyzing why year-to-year unemployment did not increase, we will need July and August data.

In June, the Seaport's *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased 50 from May 2001, but decreased 760 from June 2000. The slight increase from May to June, usually a strong employment month, is cause for concern. Only *Service* and *Manufacturing* industries recorded growth. Compared to last year at this time, employment has decreased significantly. Employment decreased in all industries except for *Food Processing* and *Government*. *Mining*, *Construction*, and *Manufacturing* cut employment by 410, whereas *Service-Producing Industries* (*Transportation*, *Communication & Utilities*, *Trade*, *Finance*, *Insurance & Real Estate* and *Service*) decreased by 350.

SPECIAL TOPICS:

Per Capita Income

- Per Capita Income (PCI), which measures average income for a population, regardless of age or employment situation, generally is cited as a useful tool for judging the economic prosperity of a county. It is designed to include virtually all

Seaport Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Nez Perce County, Idaho, and Asotin County, Washington

	June 2001*	May 2001	June 2000	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	34,900	34,940	35,380	-0.1	-1.4
Unemployment	1,400	1,510	1,620	-7.3	-13.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.0	4.3	4.6		
Total Employment	33,500	33,430	33,760	0.2	-0.8
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	34,870	34,970	35,450	-0.3	-1.6
Unemployment	1,340	1,380	1,520	-2.9	-11.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8	4.0	4.3		
Total Employment	33,530	33,590	33,930	-0.2	-1.2
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	25,830	25,780	26,590	0.2	-2.9
Goods-Producing Industries	5,240	5,090	5,650	2.9	-7.3
Mining & Construction	1,290	1,310	1,450	-1.5	-11.0
Manufacturing	3,950	3,780	4,200	4.5	-6.0
Food Processing	200	70	170	185.7	17.6
Lumber & Wood Products	700	690	760	1.4	-7.9
Paper Products	1,750	1,700	1,890	2.9	-7.4
All Other Manufacturing	1,300	1,320	1,380	-1.5	-5.8
Service-Producing Industries	20,590	20,690	20,940	-0.5	-1.7
Transportation	1,340	1,340	1,350	0.0	-0.7
Communications & Utilities	280	280	290	0.0	-3.4
Wholesale Trade	940	950	960	-1.1	-2.1
Retail Trade	5,230	5,290	5,340	-1.1	-2.1
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,330	1,350	1,460	-1.5	-8.9
Services	7,180	6,960	7,350	3.2	-2.3
Government Administration	2,010	2,000	1,920	0.5	4.7
Government Education	2,280	2,520	2,270	-9.5	0.4
*Preliminary Estimate	2,530	2,580	2,460	-1.9	2.8

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

sources of income called Total Personal Income (TPI). Therefore children, retirees, institutionalized people, and the unemployed are included in a county's PCI. The U.S. Department of Commerce recently revised PCI data from 1997 through 1999. The following are highlights of the 1999 data for counties in North Central Idaho:

- Ranked 26th out of 44 counties, Clearwater County's PCI in 1999 was \$18,429. Its TPI in 1999 increased only 3.4 percent from 1997.
- In 1999, Idaho County was 32nd out of 44 counties, with a PCI of \$17,690. Its TPI in 1999 increased 9.1 percent from 1997.
- Latah County ranked 14th in the state in 1999 with a PCI of \$21,391. Its TPI increased 8.6 percent from 1997.
- In 1999, Lewis County ranked 22nd on the county list with a PCI of \$19,074 and TPI increasing 9.3 percent from 1997.
- Nez Perce ranked 4th out of Idaho's 44 counties in 1999, with a PCI of \$24,519. Its TPI increased 9.8 percent from 1997.

Seaport Table 2: Total Personal Income and Per Capita Personal Income

Area Name	Total Personal Income (TPI) (\$ thousands)			TPI % Change	Per Capita Personal Income (PCPI)			State PCPI Rank
	1997	1998	1999		1997	1998	1999	
United States*	\$6,928,545,000	\$7,383,476,000	\$7,784,137,000	12.3	\$25,874	\$27,321	\$28,546	
Idaho	\$25,226,342	\$26,984,087	\$28,627,034	13.5	\$20,837	\$21,922	\$22,871	
Clearwater	166,827	169,020	172,481	3.4	17,740	18,083	18,429	26
Idaho	243,644	258,551	265,874	9.1	16,201	17,229	17,690	32
Latah	640,117	673,443	695,397	8.6	19,303	20,615	21,391	14
Lewis	68,810	72,942	75,208	9.3	17,074	18,258	19,074	22
Nez Perce	824,304	862,385	905,087	9.8	22,381	23,408	24,519	4
Asotin Co Washington	426,833	444,690	458,366	7.4	20,340	20,891	21,615	18

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, May 2001

*The personal income level shown for the United States is derived as the sum of the county estimates; it differs from the national income and product accounts (NIPA) estimate of personal income because by definition, it omits the earnings of Federal civilian and military personnel stationed abroad and of U.S. residents employed abroad temporarily by private U.S. firms. It can also differ from the NIPA estimates because of different data sources and revision schedules.

**Percent change was calculated from unrounded data

Agriculture

- Crop yields in North Central Idaho will likely be about average this season, but low commodity prices and high fuel and fertilizer costs will result in reduced farm income. Growers have been able to deal with high costs and low prices for crops when those factors are offset with above-average yields. Average yields this year indicate farmers may suffer more than they did last year, because last year's wheat yields were above average, which mitigated high fuel costs and record-low commodity prices.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Idaho & Lewis Counties

- Jacobs Lumber, a successful building and hardware supplies store in Kooskia, has decided to expand to Kamiah. After four years of successful business in Kooskia, owners plan to open a branch in Kamiah that will offer the same product line and customer service. The new business will be located along Highway 12 next to the Lolo Trail Café.
- In cooperation with inventor and businessman Tom York, Dye Machine in Grangeville has finished work on a prototype for a portable alignment hoist. The mechanism consists of a 360-inch-long trailer equipped with hydraulic lifts engineered to hoist 50,000 pounds up to 52 inches. Four corner hydraulic outriggers, assisted by laser alignment equipment, both stabilize and level the platform. It's completely self-contained, portable, and can hoist large vehicles — from semi trucks to cement trucks. According to the inventor and Dye Machine, the market for a portable hoist is very good, and they plan to start selling and marketing the new hoist.

Latah County

- A growing number of University of Idaho and Washington State University students have chosen to stay in Moscow/Pullman during the summer. Summer school enrollment increased significantly from previous years. Students find they can catch up on classes in a short period of time in summer school. These summer school students have contributed to an increase in *Trade and Services*, which usually experience a decrease during the summer because of the summer vacation.

Nez Perce and Asotin Counties

- Isothermal Systems Research (ISR), Clarkston's biggest high-tech employer, is planning an expansion. The company is considering sites in Clarkston and Pullman for a research and development unit, and it's considering a manufacturing plant in Spokane. Plans call for up to 400 employees each at the research and development unit, and at the manufacturing plant. ISR is developing and manufacturing prototypes of spray-cooled enclosures for electronics and computer equipment on military systems, which cost between \$50,000 and \$100,000. Fueling the expansion is a contract from the Naval Air Warfare Center's Aircraft Division in New Jersey that could be worth up to \$35 million over five years. The cooling equipment ISR makes could allow the military to use more up-to-date technologies and off-the-shelf products that otherwise would not be strong enough to last in adverse conditions.

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